



Warren Roseborough photo

‘Bama boogie

It’s time to sing along, celebrate and boogie down with Navy Band Mid-South as kids from the audience are invited up on stage at last weekend’s Flag City Freedom Celebration.

MU3 Landon Crissup (second from left) and MU3 Spencer Haasenritter (third from right) have the crowd going as they join in with the children on Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Sweet Home Alabama.”

A good old-fashioned sing-along was only one of many delights to be had at the Independence Day celebration. For more photos, see pages 4 and 5 inside.

Keeping women’s military history alive: civilian wants surviving WAVES’ stories

By JOC(SW) Michael R. Marsh
U.S. Fleet Forces Command
Public Affairs Office

As a civilian budget analyst overseeing multi-billion dollar accounts for U.S. Fleet Forces Command, Dassa Carvey is a numbers specialist. Having spent over 25 years tracking figures for the U.S. government, she’s developed a keen sense for recognizing when accounts are askew.

Away from her job overseeing dollars and cents, she’s busy tracking numbers of a different sort — the declining presence of females who served the nation as WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), a special military unit created during WWII. As the aging female veteran population continues to

decline, Carvey is concerned their history is not adequately documented and, as the numbers continue to decline, the opportunity to gain their stories is dwindling fast.

Taking matters into her own hands, Carvey’s currently involved in a nationwide movement to locate and identify those women who served as WAVES in hopes of documenting their experiences.

“Talking to those women, meeting them in person, hearing their stories, I’ve found the missing link in my life,” Carvey said. For her, that link was forged when she entered the Navy during the 1960s. A WAVES herself, today she’s one of the top leaders of the national volunteer organization giving voice to those female veterans. As the second vice president of WAVES

National, Carvey leads an ongoing mission to keep its membership informed of Veterans Administration policies and programs.

The national organization now represents veterans from all the sea services: Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Navy Nurse Corps, and Maritime Service. The organization also provides a WAVES scholarship fund for their families.

Women have always played a major role in the U.S. military. Although their initial service was primarily as nurses on the battlefield, women in WWII opened the doors of opportunity for generations to follow.

WAVES was created on June 30, 1942, when the first unit was formed in the Navy Reserve. WAVES was officially established as a means of free-

ing up male naval personnel for sea duty. The war effort offered numerous opportunities for women to work in jobs traditionally open only to men. Although the majority performed secretarial and clerical work, at least a third were assigned to naval aviation duties. Thousands of educated women with backgrounds in mathematics, physical science and engineering filled the ranks, performing complex and precise operations like calculating bomb trajectories. Some took positions as legal assistants in the Judge Advocate General Corps. Others were given work assignments in the medical, communications, and intelligence communities.

Toward the end of WWII in 1945, WAVES membership peaked with 8,000 officers and 76,000 enlisted; a

little over two-and-a-half percent of the Navy’s total strength.

Today women serve in almost every career field and specialty in the sea services.

As this year marks the 63rd anniversary of the WAVES, Carvey is hopeful women will come forward to tell their stories.

As a lasting tribute to their remarkable service, a series of stained glass windows depicting women of the sea services was created and distributed to various locations throughout the nation. One of the windows is on display in Virginia at the Naval Medical Center Portsmouth cafeteria.

If you were a member of the WAVES and desire to contact Carvey, you may e-mail her at dassa@att.net or phone (757) 460-1021.

Newsbriefs

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society has existed since 1904, helping nearly 4 million Sailors, Marines, and their families with more than \$1 billion in interest-free loans and grants. The NMCRS is a valuable resource to Sailors, Marines and their families. For more information or assistance in any way, please call 874-7350 to schedule an appointment. Appointments are encouraged. The hours of operation are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Thrift Shop, located at building S-239, is open Tuesday and Thursday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., and the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Wayne Smith photo

Sewer line construction outside Helmsman Complex

Sewer replacement may slow traffic

NSA Mid-South Public Works and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command Field Office, Memphis has begun the next sewer line replacement project west of the Helmsman Complex and extending northward to building S-454, NSA Mid-South Bachelor Quarters.

This project will last roughly four weeks. Approximately 30 feet of the parking lot west of the Helmsman Complex will be affected by the project, and will be barricaded off to keep pedestrians clear and provide necessary room for construction.

Temporary road and parking lot closures will occur until approximately the end of July. Signs, flags and flashing markers will mark off restricted areas. The club complex will remain open for normal business during this work.

For safety reasons, all personnel are reminded to remain well clear of all construction zones without prior permission of the Resident Officer in Charge of Construction’s resident engineer or the project engineering technician.



DoD photo by R. D. Ward

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld (right) and Rear Adm. Ann E. Rondeau salute during the National Anthem at a graduation ceremony held at Naval Training Center Great Lakes, Great Lakes, Ill., on Nov. 16, 2001. At the time, Rondeau was assigned there as commander, Naval Service Training Command/commander, Navy Region Midwest.

Former CO Rondeau continues up the ranks

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld announced recently that President George W. Bush has nominated Navy Rear Adm. Ann E. Rondeau for appointment to the rank of vice admiral and assignment as director, Navy Staff, N09B, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Pentagon, Washington, D.C. Rondeau is currently serving as commander, Naval Personnel Development Command/special assistant to the Chief of Naval Operations for Task Force Excel, Norfolk, Va.

As a captain, Rondeau served as the commanding officer of Naval Support Activity Mid-South from 1997-1999.

Commentary

Speaking for the fleet

Liberty and guns don't belong together

By **FLTCM(AW/SW) Jon R. Thompson**
Fleet Master Chief Petty Officer
U.S. Fleet Forces Command

Did you ever hear the phrase, "Nothing good can come from this?" In most cases, this phrase is used as a prediction about things to come. In life, you don't always need a crystal ball to predict the future. Many things are predictable. Some things, when combined, create a formula for disaster.

I'd like to share with you something I read in message traffic lately that concerned me a great deal. I see every SITREP and OPREP in the fleet, and when I see one like what I'm about to share, I can't help but wonder what the Sailors were thinking:

"(Ship) received call from Norfolk police regarding incident involving E-3, E-4 and E-3 possession of concealed weapons. Sailors were pulled over (location). Sailor 1 (E-3) was found with registered 9mm, issued citation, and was returned to the ship. Sailor 2 (E-4) was found with concealed weapon (second offense), taken into custody. Sailor 3 (E-3) was found with two concealed weapons (two offenses), one with removed serial number, was taken into custody."

If the place you intend to go on liberty is so dangerous that you feel the need to carry a gun, my advice would be to find different places to go.

Unless you're hunting, your guns need to be left at home. When I say "home" that means off any military base. Federal rules restrict you from brining a weapon onto any base.

I can see no good reason why a Sailor would need a weapon while on liberty. At best, you get arrested like the above Sailors. At worst, you end up involved in a situation where you may actually use the gun(s) and either get shot or shoot someone else. Neither are acceptable outcomes.

So there you have it: combine liberty and a gun and you have a formula for disaster. Now, before you think I'm guilty of not supporting the right to bear arms, let me clarify my position. I'm not trying to argue a constitutional right. However, as a fleet master chief, I'm in a position where I have an obligation to provide advice about how to conduct oneself on liberty, whether in the U.S. or overseas. At no time in my career have I seen a case where a Sailor packing a concealed weapon came out on the better side of the law. Whether you have a permit for a concealed weapon or not, guns and liberty do not mix. As I said earlier, nothing good can come from doing so.

Everywhere I go you tell me you desire to be treated like adults and that leadership should trust you. This is especially true of our most junior Sailors. I agree. I agree that you should be treated as adults. I agree that the default action should be to trust you. The only time I ever start doubting that logic is when I read things like this report. Trust goes both ways.

If every Sailor went on liberty and conducted him or herself in a manner that brought credit upon our Navy, I would have nothing to worry about. Unfortunately, some of your shipmates occasionally erode that trust and confidence. The "cause and effect" of this is that we leaders sometimes need to be more vocal about what's right and wrong, even if it means overstating the obvious. Granted, when you say it out loud, it almost sounds silly to have to say don't carry a gun on liberty. Is it really necessary? Unfortunately, I believe it is.

Why do I care so much? Here's the deal: if a Sailor is willing to disobey the law, what else is this Sailor willing to disobey? What Navy regulations or orders is he or she willing to ignore or disregard?

Life is about choices. In the Navy, leadership is tasked with ensuring every Sailor is armed with the necessary information to make sound choices, both at work and at home. Whether you make those sound choices is completely up to you; that's the treating you like an adult part. But choices have consequences, for you and for others.

Life is full of rules and regulations. When you serve in the Navy, you enter into an agreement with the Navy that basically says you agree to conduct yourself in a manner that will continue to uphold our longstanding reputation as a service of professionals. No one said living up to that agreement would be easy. I think, depending on your upbringing, some of you may find this easier than others.

In my experience, peer pressure can be difficult to manage. Depending on who your friends are, and who influences your decisions, you may want to ask yourself some tough questions: What are their motives? Are they encouraging you to success or failure? Do they care about you and your career? Do they care about themselves and their career? Do they share your values and your goals? If you're coming up with blanks (or bad answers) on these questions, I would suggest you rethink whom you hang around with. Finding new friends isn't always easy, but following old friends down the wrong path can lead to problems that are extremely difficult to fix.

Shipmates, we need to do everything we can to keep each other safe, on and off duty. It's bad enough one Sailor might choose to do something that could harm someone. It's twice as bad if that Sailor makes that choice, and then convinces one or more other Sailors to do the same. We all need to realize we hold the key to our success. Sometimes saying no is a very good thing, even if it means parting company with a former friend. The choice is yours, and I'm expecting each and every one of you makes the right choice.



Thompson

Chaplain's corner

Freedom in the balance

By **Chaplain Alan Cochett**

Last week we celebrated America's independence, honored our forefathers who sacrificed, served and died so we might be free, and paid tribute to the brave men and women who are serving today to insure that we remain the land of the free. I was reminded of a letter I received in January from the Chief of Chaplains. It was a call to prayer and fasting for the cause of freedom.

You may remember the January 30th elections in Iraq. It was a day when the Iraqi people faced a crucial time in their history: their first independent election in nearly 50 years. You may also remember the great courage of the Iraqi people as they flocked to the polls to cast their votes for freedom. Their courage, along with the valor of the many Americans who have died in Iraq to help secure that freedom, has inspired us all.

But, today their freedom and ours is still at risk. Determined enemies of freedom still remain who would love to disrupt Iraq's freedom and destroy ours as well.

Such a time as this calls for undaunted courage and unwavering commitment. It also beckons us again to the Chief of Chaplains' call for a period of prayer and fasting.

I hope you will take time during this week of national celebration for a season of prayer and fasting, in accordance with the traditions of your faith. I hope you will lift up the cause of freedom, justice and liberty in America, Iraq, and around the world. And I hope you will pray for our American service members who even today stand in harm's way for the cause of freedom.

Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light; protect us by your might, great God our king.

DoD announces increase in death gratuity and life insurance

From the Department of Defense

Last week the Department of Defense announced a significant increase in the death gratuity for the survivors of service members killed in action and the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) coverage for service members deployed to designated combat zones.

The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror and Tsunami Relief Act 2005 (Public Law 109-13) increases this immediate cash payment from \$12,420 to \$100,000 for survivors of those whose death is as a result of hostile actions and occurred in a designated combat operation or combat zone, or while training for combat or performing hazardous duty.

The supplemental also increases the maximum amount of SGLI coverage from \$250,000 to \$400,000 for all service members effective Sept. 1, 2005 and provides that the department will pay or reimburse the premiums to service members who are deployed in a designated combat zone for \$150,000 of SGLI coverage.

Until the effective date for the SGLI increase, the supplemental provides for a special death gratuity of \$150,000, retroactive to Oct. 7, 2001, for survivors of those whose death is in a designated combat operation or combat zone, or occurred while training for combat or performing hazardous duty.

The Secretary of Defense has designated all areas where service members are in receipt of the combat zone

tax exclusion as qualifying combat zones and all members deployed outside the United States on orders in support of Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom as participating in qualifying combat operations.

Effective immediately, survivors of service members who die in these qualifying zones or operations will receive the increased benefits.

The services will also identify eligible survivors of service members who died in these designated zones and operations since Oct. 7, 2001 and begin making the retroactive payments within a few days.

This process will take several months.

Survivors of members who did not die in a designated combat operation or zone, but were training for combat or performing hazardous duty, will also qualify for the increased benefits.

All beneficiaries for retroactive payments will be contacted by mail or telephone. If someone is not contacted, but thinks he may be entitled to added benefits, he may inquire at the following addresses or telephone numbers:

Navy: Navy Personnel Command (PERS-62), 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, Tenn. 38055-6200; or call toll-free 1-800-368-3202.

USMC: HQMC Casualty Office, 3280 Russell Road, Attn: MRPC, Quantico, VA 22134 or call toll-free 1-800-847-1597.

Army: Department of the Army Casualty Operations at toll-free 1-800-626-3317.

Quote noted



When a man has cast his longing eye on offices, a rottenness begins in his conduct. -- **Thomas Jefferson, U.S. president**

A "fact" merely marks the point where we have agreed to let investigation cease. -- **Bliss Carman, Canadian writer**

There'll always be some arrogant little brat who wants to make music with a guitar. Rock'n'roll will never die.

-- **Dave Edmunds, English singer, songwriter ("Rockpile")**

Money couldn't buy friends, but you got a better class of enemy.

-- **Spike Milligan, India-born comic**

What I admire most in men — to sit opposite a mirror at dinner and not look in it. -- **Richard Harding Davis, U.S. writer**

The 'feminine' woman is forever static and childlike. She is like the ballerina in an old-fashioned music box, her unchanging features tiny and girlish, her voice tinkly, her body stuck on a pin, rotating in a spiral that will never grow. -- **Susan Faludi, U.S. writer**

Middle age snuffs out more talent than ever wars or sudden deaths do.

-- **Richard Hughes, English writer**

Mowing can be hazardous to your health

By **Gail Evans**
NSA Mid-South Public Safety

The power lawn mower is one of the most dangerous tools around the home. Nearly 75,000 Americans are seriously injured in lawn mower accidents each year. About 10,000 of those injuries involve children. These injuries include deep cuts, loss of fingers and toes, broken and dislocated bones, burns, and eye and other injuries. Some injuries are very serious. Both users of mowers and those who are nearby can be hurt. To prevent lawn mower injuries to children, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends the following:

- Any operator should read the user's manual before operating the mower. Knowing how the machine operates will help avoid injury. The manual explains safe procedures that should be followed.
- Prevent injuries from flying objects, such as stones or toys, by picking up objects from the lawn before mowing begins. Any clutter left lying around the yard can fly up into the engine and be projected out the side, almost like a missile, and it can cause serious injury to a person. Remember to turn the mower off before crossing over gravel paths or roads to avoid flying stones.
- While the lawn is being mowed, keep others away to ensure their safety. Although it's usually a struggle to keep kids inside during the warm summer months, it's the first and most important step to keeping them safe while the lawn mower is on. Several serious injuries can occur if children are in the yard while the mower is running. There's the risk that a parent might accidentally run over a child's hand or foot if he or she is playing too close to the mower. Plus, there's always the chance that an object like a twig or a stone will fly out of the mower and strike the child. Make sure the grass is dry; never mow wet grass.
- Do not use riding mowers on steep slopes. Mower overturns cause serious injury. Drive up and down slopes when operating a riding mower. Mow across the slope when using a walk-behind mower.
- The operator-presence switch should stop the mower immediately when you release the control. This control

should never be disconnected.

- Do not allow children younger than 12 to use walk-behind mowers. Do not allow children younger than 14 to use ride-on mowers. Adults often allow young children to ride on their lap while they cut the lawn, which is never a good idea. With young passengers riding aboard the mowers, there is always the potential that they could fall off the machine while it's running. This type of occurrence can result in the child's hands, feet or entire body being run over by the mower, often resulting in limb amputation or a life-long debilitation injury.
 - Before the mower is ever turned on, check on protective equipment. To prevent injury, everyone who operates a lawn mower should wear pants and sturdy shoes, not sandals or sneakers. Hearing and eye protection may also be necessary. Lawn mowers, at an average of 95 decibels, are extremely loud. However, they caution lawn mower operators against using portable music players, which may distract the operator from other potential dangers.
 - Be sure all protective devices are in place before starting the mower. Shields and guards are for your protection and will prevent numerous injuries if used. With more than 22 percent of lawn mower injuries involving the hands, fingers or wrist, it's important to always make sure the engine is off, the mower blade has completely stopped rotating and the spark plug is removed before attempting to remove debris from the mower or make adjustments.
 - Start and refuel mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed. Mowers should be refueled with the motor turned off and cool. Improper fueling can result in burns or explosions, which could cause the loss of an eye, limb, skin or prove fatal. Even if there are times when you just want to adjust the height of the mower's wheels, you should pull out the spark plug to ensure that there's no way for the lawn mower to turn on.
- Safety practices are just common sense — but we often need reminders. Take a few minutes to review these safety suggestions at the beginning of each mowing season.



The Bluejacket

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Wayne Smith photo

Farmer retirement

YNC (AW/SW) Nelson Farmer (left) is presented a certificate of appreciation signed by President Bush by Capt. Matt Straughan, commanding officer, NSA Mid-South. Farmer retired with 20 years of naval service. Farmer was most recently an activated Reservist due several conflicts around the world.

Stretch your food dollar with the DeCA Commissary Web site

By Cherie Dewar for
LIFELines.navy.mil/

Anyone who shops at the local commissary knows how low the prices can be compared to civilian grocery stores, and now you can find even more savings by visiting the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Web site.

You'll get coupons, learn about sales and Best Value Items (BVIs), and see new recipes, as well as finding links to other Web sites that serve military families. To locate and learn about the NSA Mid-South commissary, click on the "locations" tab.

Each commissary provides a list of business hours, driving directions, spotlighted events, specialties (such as special-order meat, veggie, or fruit trays, or a "Grab 'n Go" section), services, and even the managers' names. If you have any questions or concerns, the commissaries list their e-mail address so you can communicate with them directly.

The spotlighted events section often mentions upcoming sales, and how to find the BVIs, which means that those items are comparable in quality to the national brand, but sold at a lower price than at civilian supermarkets — sometimes they're even much lower than the normal 30.4 percent savings that you'll find at the commissary.

The "Shopping" section will help you hunt down the BVIs. Under "Visit Our Savings Aisle" is a complete list of the BVIs, plus bargain products broken down by category, such as frozen foods, grocery, health and beauty, etc. This section is similar to the mailers that advertise sale items in civilian grocery stores by listing what percentage the items are discounted when compared to the regular price. You can make out your shopping list by looking at the commissary's products where the BVIs and national pro-



motion items are flagged. If you need fresh meal ideas when you're making out your shopping list, the "Shopping" section also has a "Find a Recipe" section. There are recipes for practical dinners like potato corn chowder with chicken, or cute decorative desserts such as Poppy the Penguin popcorn balls.

Many more links are provided that contain recipe ideas. Kraft, Nabisco, and Kellogg have web sites dedicated to the military, and these sites advertise special offers of their products at the commissaries.

One good resource is *Military Shoppers*. After registering with the Web site, you can stretch your food dollar even further by printing coupons from the "Military Store Coupons" section. Military Shoppers mails out "Judy Johnson" coupons to those who live in on-base housing; these coupons are good only at commissaries. If you live off-base, you can receive them by signing up in the Judy Johnson Coupon section.

This site also offers free classified ads, base information, and a local entertainment guide. The

"Links" page of the Web site has numerous informative links to food safety alerts, a series on bioterrorism, allergy information, and coupons.

Active duty personnel and their spouses have unlimited access to the commissary, and Reserve personnel can go 24 times per year. Reservists are issued a commissary privilege card once a year. The Reservist presents this card each time he or she goes to the commissary, and it's marked to keep track of the visits. If Reservists are mobilized to active duty, then they and their family members have unlimited commissary access. During this time, an ID card and a copy of the Reservist's orders are all that are required to use the commissary.

By shopping at the commissary, a family of four can save \$2,440 per year, with average savings of 30.4 percent compared to civilian grocery stores. This shopping experience, at one of the 284 commissaries, can be enhanced even more by using DeCA's informative Web site.

FFSC Information, training

Smooth Move: July 21, 2-4 p.m., Classroom 2

Relocating? Moving can be a frustrating and stressful time for the entire family. By understanding the cycle of relocation and learning how to deal with the physical and emotional challenges of moving, you can help make it a more enjoyable event. Attend this class and receive the latest information on family fears and feelings, relocation tips for military families, moving and the military family and adjusting to the new community, including Web sites for children and teens.

All workshops/classes at the Fleet and Family Support Center are free, but registration is required. Please call Linda Busby at 874-5075 to register.

Sponsor Training Workshop: July 21, 1-2 p.m., Classroom 2

The Command Sponsor Program is designed to facilitate the adaptation of the service members and family members to a new working and living environment. A good sponsor helps to aid the newcomer in become a productive member of the receiving command. This training will teach sponsors how to help incoming personnel overcome relocation difficulties and apprehension associated with the PCS move. Each command should have their assigned sponsors attend this training.

Contact Linda Busby at 874-5075 to register.



Wayne Smith photo

A sprinkler a day

Eight-year-old Evan Allbee cools off from the summer heat by jumping through his mom's lawn sprinkler. With a sprinkler there is no wading pool to drain at the end of the day, as required by the Base Housing office (to eliminate mosquito-breeding ponds).

Back-to-school: time for health checks

Memphis and Shelby County Health Department

The Memphis and Shelby County Health Department reminds parents there are only five more weeks until school starts in our community (Aug. 8 for county schools and Aug. 15 for city schools). Help your child be ready to attend school on the first day, with all the necessary requirements being met. Lines are long at birth certificate offices, doctors' offices and clinics.

To enter Tennessee kindergarten through 12th grade for the first time, your child must have a physical exam and a valid immunization record (the "Green Card"). The child must also show proof of living in that district, have a valid birth certificate and a Social Security number. Pre-school/child care programs have slightly different requirements.

Required immunizations:

Diphtheria: at least four, one of which must be after the fourth birthday; for all grades

Polio: at least four; for all grades

Measles, Mumps and Rubella 2 - both of which have to be given after the first birthday; for all grades.

Hepatitis B series for KINDERGARTEN and SEVENTH grade. Depending upon the vaccine given, a series may consist of three or two injections. If the student had this series of HepB shots as a baby, the shot does **not** need to be repeated for seventh grade.

Varicella (chickenpox): one (or history of the disease) for KINDERGARTEN.

Also important:


- Does your child have any

health problems (asthma, seizures, sickle cell, diabetes, etc.)? Talk with a school nurse for your child's school or school system BEFORE school begins or at the very beginning of school so that your child can stay as safe and healthy as possible. Call the school office or the main school administration office for your system to get in touch with a school nurse. In Memphis and Shelby County, you may call the Health Department for assistance (544-7646) during normal business hours.

- Will your child need medications or procedures during school hours? Make every effort to minimize medications and procedures at school, and be prepared to fill out the paperwork and follow the policies for each district. If your child needs a nurse to do or help with the procedure, you must make arrangements before the child can begin school. Most schools in Tennessee do not have full-time nurses. You may call the Health Department (544-7646) during normal business hours for assistance with these needs also.

- Healthy foods, lots of physical exercise and plenty of sleep all help children do well in school. Reading to or with your child is also wonderful for brain health. Help children get into these habits BEFORE school begins. Parents and guardians who adopt these habits are fantastic role models for their children.

For additional information regarding school entry requirements, contact the Memphis and Shelby County Health Department School Health Program at (901) 544-7646 during normal business hours.



United States Forces Public Affairs

Flying in Desert Camouflage Uniforms (DCUs)

- DCUs authorized on all military flights.
- DCUs are also authorized on all commercial flights within the United States.
- For security reasons, DCUs are not authorized on OCONUS commercial flights.

Signed:
Vice Admiral John Cotton, USN
Chief of Navy Reserve
June 28 05



Children climb the giant slide, take the plunge, and bounce, bounce, bounce.



Samantha Davis (right) stays in the patriotic spirit, buying a flag from Jane Pike of the Flag Store.

Feeling the spirit

The 2005 Fourth of July Flag City Freedom Celebration kicked off at Navy Lake last Saturday. The Fourth of July may have had been celebrated on the second of July locally, but the occasion and celebration were on-target. A record crowd packed the Navy Lake area to eat, socialize, recreate and watch the fireworks.

This year's festivities held more attractions for kids and families than in past shows. Activities were offered such as canoeing, boat rides, a bungee run, giant slide and face painting. The Navy Band Mid-South was in top form, playing hits from Chicago, Earth Wind and Fire, Kansas and lots of country music. The Tennessee State Guard was on hand to assist in parking and security.

Story and
photos by
Warren
Roseborough



A man takes his family out canoeing on Navy Lake. Some paddle; others lie back and enjoy the ride.



MU3 Landon Crissup (left) and MU3 Spencer Haasneritter of the Navy Band give it their all singing Earth Wind and Fire's hit tune, "September."



The food was worth the lines.

The Navy Band rocks with "Only the Beginning" by Chicago, which gives the horn section a chance to shine.





Grayson Crum gets into the patriotic spirit as the band plays Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the USA."



Members of the Navy Band show their true colors when they close out with "God Bless America."



Kids with melty popsicles are always fun to watch, although cleanup lacks the same entertainment value.



No Fourth would be complete without the Pledge of Allegiance.



New NSA Mid-South commanding officer, Capt. Matt Straughan (standing, wearing cap) partakes in the evening's events with executive officer Rusty Chang (seated, far right) as fireworks fans pour into the Navy Lake area.



It's a "groove thang" (photos above and at right) for kids and grownups alike who come nearer the stage to seen.